



Gardner Hill and Waterfall Loop Hike at Barrett Park

Brief Description: A wonderful, meandering loop hike on a new, well-designed trail to the top of Gardner Hill, down to Colburn Pond, and over to Barrett Park's hidden waterfall.

Distance, Time, and Difficulty: This hike is moderate in difficulty. It is about 1.75 miles and takes about 50 minutes.

Uses: Hiking, snowshoeing, birding, observing wildlife, letterboxing, geocaching, and fishing.

Barrett Park is not in Leominster's Watershed Area so dogs are allowed, but they must be leashed. Owners are responsible for cleaning up after their pets!

Directions to the Trailhead: From Monument Square in the center of Leominster, take Pleasant Street for 0.6 mile. Bear right onto Chestnut Street at the green Recreation Department/Barrett Park sign. Go 0.1 mile and turn right into the parking lot for Barrett Park.

Trailhead Address: 40 Barrett Parkway.

Trailhead Parking: Free parking for about 40 cars.

The Hike: From the parking lot, walk into the park heading to the left and look for the sign at **Intersection #41**. Go right here towards the pond and beach. After the beach, follow the trail as it hugs the shore of the pond passing a small pier to **Intersection #42**. Go right here on the flat, yellow dot trail into the woods. Just before you reach a boarded-up house, follow the yellow dot trail to the left as it begins to head up Gardner Hill.

Keep following the yellow dot trail as it switches back and forth heading gradually up to the top of the hill. Follow the yellow dot trail, not the unmarked side trails. When you get near the top, you come to **Intersection #43** with a trail sign. Go left here, following the yellow dots to an airport beacon tower, located at the wooded top of Gardner Hill.

From the airport beacon, continue to follow the yellow dots heading down Gardner Hill. You soon come to an intersection with an unmarked trail—go right following the yellow dots. At the next intersection with an unmarked trail, take a sharp left turn onto another new trail section that zigzags downhill and is marked with yellow blazes. This section passes through some wonderful thickets of mountain laurel that bloom in May and June.

As you approach the bottom of the hill, you pass over newly constructed stone steps and reach an intersection. Go left here, following the flat, yellow dot trail leading to Coburn Pond and **Intersection #44**. From here, go right on the causeway crossing the pond to **Intersection #45**, just before a soccer field. Go right on the side trail leading to the waterfall.



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HIKE DESCRIPTION CONTINUED:

When you enter a small grassy clearing, go right following the yellow dots into the woods leading to the stream that feeds Colburn Pond. Follow the trail bearing left as it gradually ascends to the lovely small waterfall and its gentle cascades.

The trail continues uphill steeply along the stream to **Intersection #46** and a bridge over the stream. (The trail to the right leads to Elm Street.) Continue uphill, not crossing the stream.

Very soon you reach another intersection with a dead-end spur trail to the left leading to the top of a small, but pretty, knoll. Continue to follow the yellow dot trail straight ahead to an intersection at a large pine tree with an unmarked trail on the right. Go left here, following the yellow dot trail.

In a short time, you come to a small opening in the forest at **Intersection #47**, with trails going off in four directions. Go left here and soon you reach the small grassy clearing that you passed earlier. Go straight, back to **Intersection #45** near Coburn Pond and take a right turn towards the soccer field.

Follow the gravel path as it passes by the soccer field towards the woods. At the end of the field, a side trail heads left out to a nice view of Coburn Pond. Continue on the gravel path, passing the playground, and reaching **Intersection #41**, where you started the loop hike. Take a right to get back to the parking lot.

*(Updated 5/31/2011 by the Leominster Trail Stewards.
For more information, go to www.leominstertrailstewards.org)*

Trail Facts

Hike Length*	1.75 mi
Starting Elevation*	484 ft
Max Elevation*	637 ft
Max Vertical Change*	180 ft
Est. Time to Complete*	50 min
* All distances and times are approximate	



For a larger map, go to: [Barrett Park Map](#)

